

This is a reasonably cheap paper-back volume and is laid out in two columns with a large number of text diagrams and tables. The illustrations, which are excellent, are printed on four plates in the middle of the book. These economies make the book a little difficult to read but in no way detract from its value. It is a scholarly work and at the end of each chapter there is a list of half-a-dozen books or reviews for more detailed reading as well as 50 to 100 references to the original papers. I hope the authors will not find it too great a burden to keep this book up to date, and compliment them and their publishers for getting this edition to the booksellers before it is out of date. P.C.E.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS FOR NURSES. Mary E. Beck. Third Edition. (Pp. xii+227; Illustrated. £1.25). Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1971.

THIS is an excellent little book, readable, full of just the sort of information that nurses need and the sort of book that many housewives and parents would enjoy reading. As it is beneath the dignity of medical students to read a textbook for nurses it might be a good idea to republish the book under the title "Nutrition and Dietetics for Doctors" because the subject matter is better dealt with here than in many of the current textbooks of medicine.

In spite of the fact that this is a third edition the text shows very few of the characteristics of a revised text. There are very few places where the information does not conform to current views (as for instance in the precise mechanism of carbohydrate absorption and the description of insulin as a protein). I had to read the text right through to find these examples and was impressed also by the clear type and illustrations and the absence of misprints.

If a further edition is planned I would suggest the following alterations:—

- (a) That more detailed information be given about the way in which food can cause diseases, particularly infections. The dangers of Grade A unpasteurised milk could be emphasised and also the dangers of bulk preparation of infant and oesophageal feeds, with notes of their storage on the wards between preparation and use.
- (b) Low salt diets. These are described as of use in the treatment of heart failure and cirrhosis of the liver as well as in severe renal failure. In practice the widespread adoption of powerful diuretics for the treatment of heart failure and cirrhosis with ascites has replaced the low salt diet and produced salt depletion syndromes which should be prevented by dietary supplements.
- (c) Finally, there needs to be a short section on the dietary restrictions which need to be imposed when certain drugs are given, situations which are far commoner and just as important as the rare inherited diseases which are already dealt with in such detail. P.C.E.

SOCIOLOGY IN MEDICINE by M. W. Susser and W. Watson. Second Edition. Pp. xi+468; figs 45. Paper £3.50; boards £5.00). London: Oxford University Press, 1971.

SEVERAL medical schools in the U.K. have now introduced medical sociology into the medical undergraduate curriculum, and the appearance of a second edition of this book indicates the need for such a text book and its popularity. Sociology is concerned with the anatomy and physiology of society and medical sociology deals with those aspects of the subject which are relevant to the problems of disease.

Some of the most important health problems which confront us today such as addiction to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis or LSD, suicide and attempted suicide, gonorrhoea and many road accidents are caused by faulty patterns of behaviour. Such behaviour is now in fact more fatal in the Western World than the bacterium or virus.

Another area of human behaviour which is closely related to the health of the community lies in the realm of reproduction. A lack of responsibility in this aspect of behaviour has